

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199570

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199570

FOLLOWING ATHENS 6938 SENT ACTION STATE RPT TO YOU
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ATHENS 6938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PGOR, GR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. STATEMENT ON NEW GOG

1. WITH PROSPECT NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT UNDER MARKEZINIS
WILL BE SWORN IN OCTOBER 8 QUESTION OF SOME US STATEMENT
IS BOUND TO ARISE. HOWEVER, SINCE PRESIDENT SENT PERSONAL
MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS IN AUGUST ON OCCASION
OF HIS INAUGURATION, FURTHER PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE DOES NOT
SEEM NECESSARY OR EVEN APPROPRIATE.

2. WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, AS WELL
AS CONSISTENT WITH LONG-TERM US OBJECTIVE OF GREECE'S
RETURN TO POLITICAL NORMALITY IF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
COULD MAKE PREPARED STATEMENT AT PRESS BRIEFING OCT. 9
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) US HAS NOTED WITH GREAT INTEREST APPOINTMENT BY
PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS OF NEW CABINET UNDER PRIME
MINISTER SPYROS MARKEZINIS. MR. MARKEZINIS, A FORMER
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PAGE 02 STATE 199570

DEPUTY AND MINISTER, IS AN EXPERIENCED AND WELL-KNOWN

POLITICAL LEADER WITH WHOM THE US HAS COOPERATED CLOSELY
IN THE PAST ON MATTERS OF COMMON AND MUTUAL INTEREST.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM AGAIN.

(B) THIS STEP TOGETHER WITH THE RECENT LIFTING OF MARTIAL
LAW AND GENERAL POLITICAL AMNESTY REPRESENT PROMISING STEPS
TOWARD RETURN TO NORMAL POLITICAL LIFE IN GREECE. WE WISH
PRESIDENT PAPADOPOULOS AND PRIME MINISTER MARKEZINIS
EVERY SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

3. NOTE: THIS STATEMENT CAN BE EXPANDED TO TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT ANY PRAISEWORTHY STATEMENT MARKEZINIS MAKES
REGARDING ELECTIONS, ETC.
TASCA UNQUOTE RUSH

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